

Pension Application for Samuel Darling

R.2666

Declaration of Samuel Darling a revolutionary soldier, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832 entitled "an act supplementary to an act for the relief of the surviving officers and soldiers of the revolution."

The State of Ohio

Medina County SS.

Court of Common Pleas

October Term A.D. 1832.

On this 22 day of October personally appeared in open court before the Hon. Reuben Smith, John Newton and Allen Pardell Esqrs associate judges of said court now sitting Samuel Darling a resident of the township of Liverpool in the County of Medina and State of Ohio, aged seventy seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his said oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress aforesaid in the words and figures following to wit.—

I Samuel Darling a revolutionary soldier, being of lawful age and duly sworn do on my said oath depose, and say that according to my family record, which is contained in a leaf torn out of my family bible which I swapped away several years ago, and which leaf I have now at home if it not be lost, and according to my own belief, I was born in the town of Dover, county of Dutchess [Dutchess] and State of New York, on the 7th day of February A.D. 1755. The record however does not state the place. My father and mother have however repeatedly told me that I was born there at that time.

When I was about 12 years old my father sold out in Dutchess County, and moved to New Lebanon in what was then called into the revolutionary service. Since the revolutionary war I first removed from New Lebanon when about 30 years of age to what was then the town of Wallingford but now called Meriden in the county of New Haven, and State of Connecticut. I lived in Wallingford or Meriden as it is now called between 30 and 40 years, when I removed to my present place of residence in Liverpool Medina co., Ohio where I have lived 14 years.

In the year 1776 I think it was, while on a visit from New Lebanon to Dover, I am listed for two months at Col. Morehouse's to guard stores belonging to the United States.

I enlisted into Capt. Martin's company who were all two months men enlisted for that purpose.

I do not recollect that there were any other commissioned officers in the company as it was merely a guard for stores—I think the name of the sergeant of the guard was Morehouse Col Morehouse's son, and it seems as if his Christian name was David. He had no other officers that I remember.

One duty was to stand sentry over the stores and deliver them out when called for by government. This was in the spring of the year. I cannot recollect the day I enlisted but would think it was the latter part of May. Planting corn was over when I

enlisted. No additional stores were brought there after I enlisted that I recollect. They consisted chiefly of pork, beef and flour and were sent to West Point in carts and wagons. I served out my two months and was then paid off in Continental money which was then good.

It appears to me I as paid at the rate of 7 dollars per month. We had the privilege of working out in the day time on our won but had to stand guard at night. We received no written discharges, but were dismissed by Capt. Martin by word of mouth. I supposed I was during that time on the continental establishment because I enlisted to guard Continental stores.

There were no regular troops nor more general officers at this place during this time. As soon as I was discharged I returned home to New Lebanon.

My next tour of service was the next fall when an alarm was given that the Tories were connecting in Phillips Town in Albany county between New Lebanon and Albany. I was out scouting at this time as far as Green Bush two or three days, but did not find the enemy.

I next enlisted for nine months under a recruiting officer whose name I have forgotten at New Canaan, but my father not being able to spare me as I was about all the help he had and he an old man, I hired a substitute one Charles Fitch to go in my [?]-I forgotten the year but if I am not mistaken it was the year that American made an alliance with France—

My next service was on a three months tour to Chemung Valley in this way. We were called three months men, that is one quarter of the militia were called up at a time to perform a month's duty apiece in rotation. I do not know from whom the order for this draft came, but I suppose from head quarters, probably from Gen. Washington. I was drafted in the latter part of summer probably about the last of August, though it is so long since that I cannot be more precise.

We marched from New Lebanon to Cherry Valley in the State of New York but what county it was then I cannot now state. I served out my month when my brother Ebenezer arrived in a new draft, but his wife being sick at home, I took his place and served out his month. I then took the place of one of my near neighbors by the name of Ezra Thurston whose family was sic. When the third month was out several of us whose times were out were detained three days by Col Alden till the recruits should arrive, but they not arriving he dismissed us by word of mouth only and we returned home. We went off about the middle of the forenoon and heard before we got home that the next night the fort at the valley was when the enemy and the garrison and inhabitants mostly destroyed.

The commander at the fort was Col. Alden, his Christian name I do not remember that I ever knew. If I ever did I have forgotten it. I do not remember the names of any of the other field officers as the months men among whom I as being considered and acted as mere militia and held in contempt by the regular troops were billeted by them selves, and had but little connection or acquaintance with the regular officers, though we frequently saw them. I think it was said there were about 400 regular troops at the valley while I was there. I saw them march out over an alarm

and there was a handsome body of them. The commander of the company to which I belonged was Lieut Smith. I think his Christian name was John. The commander was to the valley when we were put under the command of Capt. Benjamin a militia officer. There was about the number of the companies of militia men at the valley while I was there. I think we had a full complement of officers in our company though I have forgotten the most of their names.—An Orderly Sergeant's name was I think Joseph Meachan we had no skirmishing or fighting with the enemy while I staid and but one alarm which proved a false one. I do not remember the year when these transactions took place, though the season of the year I do as I have above stated and was out just three months and three days.—

My next service was on an alarm—our regiment, during the later part of the war especially were under orders to be ready at a minutes warning to turn out against the enemy as we should be ordered, and I for one was always ready equipped with gun, bayonet, ammuniton, cartridge box, knapsack and blanket, for that purpose and was frequently inspected at services among the rest.

An alarm came it seems to me just before Burgoyne was taken, but of this I am not certain it is so long since and I am son old, for our regiment to turn out and march to the northward against the enemy. The regiment accordingly turned out and marched from New Canaan then in Albany county where it assembled, to Greenbush from there to Half Moon, from there to Fort Edward, from there to Johnstown and then returned home without finding any enemy. I cannot recollect exactly how long we were gone this tour, but as nigh as I can remember about half a month.—

I recollect we staid 4 or 5 days at Fort Edward—we were dismissed before we got back to Albany by word of mouth only—Our Colonel was Samuel Whiting I think—the Lieut Col, was Asa or Asabel Waterman. The major's name was Burk a Baptist preacher common called doctor Buck. My captain was Nehemiah Fitch my lieutenant John Smith my ensign Jonathan Mott—I do not remember the names of any of the other field officers except the surgeon which was Hamilton whom I well knew

An orderly sergeant I think was Joseph Meacham. My next service as it was in my mind though I cannot say but I may state periods in wrong succession was at the taking of Burgoyne if I recollect right in 1777. Orders came from our Colonel for our whole regiment to turn out and march to the northward against Burgoyne. We marched from New Canaan to Stillwater or Bemis Heights, crossing the North River as near as I can recollect at Half Moon. We arrived at the battle ground on the evening of the 16th of October or rather just before night and Burgoyne surrendered the next day so that we were not called into action. We were commanded by the same officers as when we went to Johnstown. We were gone at this time about 5 days.

My next service was in the fall of 1778 being the next fall after Burgoyne as taken—one half or our regiment was called out on an alarm to go to Bemis Heights to fight the enemy who were reported to be in that vicinity. What month or time in the month I cannot remember but it was in the fall of the year. We marched form the same place in New Canaan to Stillwater or Bemis Heights but no enemy was to be found. We stayed there 2 or 3 days and then returned. I recollect it was the fall after

Burgoyne was taken because there were great numbers of Hessian skulls as they were said to be at the heights, lying on the ground. We were gone as much as 5 or 6 days our officers were principally the same as before, but our commander was Lieut Col Waterman, Col. Whiting, not being with us.

The reminder of my revolutionary services I cannot, from the nature of them state precisely in detail. We were under orders to turn out at a minute's warning, and living on what was at that time the frontier, our regiment was, among others, frequently harassed by alarms from the British Tories and Indians. The whole regiment was never called out but twice as I have stated. During however all the latter part of the war I was most of the time employed in a service of a particular nature—as it seems to me about two or three years before the end of the war, a conspiracy as it was discovered was formed among the Tories, to destroy the leading characters among the Whigs on the North River and then make them cross the river to the British forces westward of Albany. As soon as this conspiracy was discovered, I with others was employed to hunt for and catch Tories and bring them before what was called the standing committee for examination on trial.

This committee was appointed by government, as I understood with general authority to try and punish crimes, breaches of the peace &c, I was about always sent out in cases of alarms from the Tories, to go out scouting in small parties to arrest and bring them before the committee. At least one quarter if not more of my time was taken up in this service, I being considered a [?] patrol. The duty was to range the fields, woods, hills, &c by day and by night according as alarms came to hunt for Tories in their lurking places and we frequently had good success. We scouted in all directions according to the course of the alarms and intelligence we received, but most of the time towards GreenBush and Albany. My whole revolutionary services amount as near as I can judge to about two years.

It is highly probable that some short services have escaped my memory for alarms were so frequent and we were so often called out in the manner I have stated that I find it impossible at this later period, when my memory is impaired by old age to recollect more precisely than I have stated.

I know of no person living by whom I can prove my revolutionary services or any part thereof, unless it be Mr. Levi Odell, residing in Liverpool my own place of residence, whose deposition I intend to take and substantiate my claim.

I never received a written discharge at any time nor did I know of any that did except regular soldiers.

I always supposed myself during all the different periods of my residence to be a militia man except the first as I have stated. The following are the names of persons living in my present neighborhood who can testify to my services as a soldier of the revolution viz. Seth Worden, Moses Deming, and John Hulet, Jacob War of Brunswick, is the nearest preacher to where I live that I know of—I and my character are well known to Col. John Feese, Major Andre Deming and others of Brunswick and to many others—I think upon reviewing my deposition that I may be mistaken as to the time of enlisting into the regular service for 8 months this which was perhaps the

year after Burgoyne was taken, though my memory is so confused I can not be so precise as I wish I could but all the other facts are, I am confident, as I have stated.

Perhaps I ought further to state, that I am and have been for a long time very poor and destitute, my wife and children being all dead, my two sons upon whom I might have relied for a support in my old age, having been as I suppose both killed in the last war as they were both enlisted soldiers in the United States service before the commencement of that war, and as near as I can find out marched from Carlisle in Pennsylvania under Gen. Hull at the time of his invading Canada and were killed in some of the battles or skirmishes fought at that time.

That I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present, and further declare, that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or country whatever.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand under the seal of the Court of common Pleas of the county of Medina and State of Ohio, prefixed to this declaration in open court this 22 day of October A.D. 1832. (Signed) Samuel Darling

Sworn & subscribed to before me this 22d day of Oct. 1832. T. Hudson, Clk.